IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claims as amended:

1. (currently amended) An aerofoil for a turbine engine, the aerofoil comprising cooling channels of decreasing cross-section with a transfer passage between adjacent cooling channels in order to provide coolant flow into a channel if normal coolant flow is restricted upstream of the transfer passage wherein the transfer passage has a cross-section determined for conformity with the outlet cross-section of a respective coolant channel for substantial coolant flow balance across the coolant channels of the aerofoil wherein the cooling channels are wedge shaped from an inlet to an outlet to provide the decreasing cross-section to coolant flow and wherein each transfer passage is located towards an upstream end of its respective cooling channel and in a wall that is otherwise imperforate.

2. (cancelled).

3. (original) An aerofoil as claimed in claim 1 wherein transfer passages are provided on both sides of each cooling channel.

4. (previously cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously amended) An aerofoil as claimed in claim 1, wherein each transfer passage has a diameter of approximately 1 millimeter.

7. (previously amended) An aerofoil as claimed in claim 1, wherein each transfer passage has one of a round or oval cross-section.

8. (original) An aerofoil as claimed in claim 1, wherein each transfer passage is substantially perpendicular to the respective coolant channels between which it extends.

9. (original) An aerofoil as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transfer passages are staggered relative to the major axis of the aerofoil in order to improve at least one of the heat transfer and mechanical strength of the aerofoil.

10. (cancelled).

11. (previously amended) A turbine engine including an aerofoil as claimed in claim 1.